

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2259
INFO SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY COLLECTIVE 34
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC
CINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA
CNO WAHSDC//OP-614
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII
OSD/ISA/EUR/WASHDC

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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP,IBS, IPS, IEU

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TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MILI, OAPEC, UR,(,7 , XF, XJ, NG, CI, JA
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SOVIET PRESS - DEC 18-20

1. U.S. COVERAGE: ALBOUT AVERAGE IN AMOUNT, BUT LESS
NEGWITHAN USUAL.

--PRAVDA'S NEWLY ARRIVED U.S. CORRESPONDENT T. KOLESNICHENKO WRITES THOUGHTFUL, MAIDEN PIECE IN PRAVDA DEC 18 ON "AMERICA AS 1976 ENDS." AUTHOR USES INTERVIEW WITH HARRIMAN TO PROJECT POSITIVE IMAGE OF CARTER AND VANCE, PARTICULARLY ON SALT AND ARMS CONTROL, BUT THEN POINTS OUT PROBLEMS DURING TRANSITION PERIOD TO SUGGEST THAT THEIR GOOD INTENTIONS ARE SURE TO BE TESTED BY OPPONENTS OF DETENTE. PENTAGON AND SOME SENATORS ARE PUSHING FOR B-1 AND BUDGET INCREASES CONTRARY TO CARTER'S WISHES; BUSINESSMEN WANT MORE TRADE WITH USSR, BUT JACKSON-VANIK STANDS IN WAY. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE INCREASING, SAYS KOLESNICHENKO, WHO QUOTES CARTER SPOKESMAN POWELL THAT U.S. ECONOMY IS WORSE THAN CARTER HAD THOUGHT, AND TRADE DISCRIMINATION IS NO HELP IN IMPROVING MATTERS. (KZ DEC 19 ECHOES POWELL'S REMARK BY QUOTING CARTER PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT ECONOMY IN DEEPEST CRISIS SINCE 1930'S, WORSE THAN CARTER THOUGHT EVEN THREE MONTHS AGO.)

--ON DEC 18 PRAVDA AND KZ REPORT GEORGE KENNAN CRITIQUE OF U.S. AND NATO REJECTION OF WP PROPOSAL ON NUCLEAR NON-FIRST-USE. KENNAN REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION EXPLORATION OF U.S.-USSR INITIATIVES TO REDUCE NUCLEAR ARMS AND ARMS RACE, CHARGING U.S. AND NATO PRIMARILY AT FAULT IN ARMS RACE BECAUSE OF POLICY OF "FIRST STRIKE."

--SCHULTZ, YOUNG AND BRZEZINSKI APPOINTMENTS RECORDED IN PRAVDA AND KZ DEC 19. BRZEZINSKI REFERRED TO ONLY AS SPECIALIST IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, BUT HIS STATEMENT ABOUT FAVORING DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN RELATIONS IS MENTIONED.

--DEC 20 PRAVDA AND KZ HAVE TASS WASHINGTON ARTICLE ON U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL FOLLOWING PERES' VISIT. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, PERES REQUESTED 2.3 BILLION DOLLARS DURING NEXT FISCAL YEAR IN ADDITION TO 4.5 BILLION SUPPLIED DURING LAST TWO FISCAL YEARS. QUESTION OF F-16 SUPPLY WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED.

2. OTHER COVERAGE:

--BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM ASSEMBLED RULING PARTY LEADERS ARE PRINTED IN (CYRILLIC) ALPHABETICAL ORDER, FOLLOWED BY KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN OF LAOS, THE LIBERATED CORVALAN, WEST GERMAN DKP, URUGUAYAN FIRST SECRETARY ARISMENDI, AND THEN FIVE NON-COMMUNISTS: SEKOU TOURE, MRS. GANDI, PRESIDENT FORD, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, AND PRESIDENT LEONE. RULING PARTY LEADERS WISHED BREZHNEV CONTINUING SUCCESSES IN "ACTIVITIES;" ONLY CASTRO ADDED "AS HEAD OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CPSU" (THOUGH

KADAR HAD MENTIONED POST IN BILATERAL GREETING LAST WEEK). KAYSONE AND HUSAK WERE ONLY ONES TO REMARK ON BREZHNEV'S GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. SALUTATIONS ALSO DEMONSTRATED CHARACTERISTIC EMPHASES: BREZHNEV WAS "DEAR COMRADE" TO ALL EXCEPT KADAR, KIM IL SUNG AND CEAUSESCU ("RESPECTED COMRADE"), GIEREK (RESPECTED AND DEAR") AND TITO AND KAYSONE (NOTHING AT ALL). OTHERWISE, GREETINGS SEEM UNEXCEPTIONAL.

--WEEKEND CENTRAL PRESS HAS MANY ARTICLES ON FREEING OF LUIS CORVALAN AND ON HIS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW DEC 18. PRESSURE OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IS CITED AS CAUSE FOR HIS RELEASE. NO MENTION MADE OF RELEASE OF SOVIET DISSIDENT BUKOVSKIY IN EXCHANGE.

--PRAVDA'S COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN DEC 16 BY VLADIMIR MIKHAYLOV FROM BONN MAINTAINS WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE TOWARDS SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT AFTER REVIEWING BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE PARTS OF HIS PROGRAM.
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--FRENCH DECISION TO END SALES OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES RECORDED IN PRAVDA AND KZ DEC 18 WITH NOTE THIS DOES NOT AFFECT PAK AND SOUTH AFRICAN DEALS.

--PRAVDA'S ANATOLIY KRASIKOV IN DEC 19 COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN FROM MADRID QUOTES PCE LEADER MONTERO THAT SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM SHOWS SPANISH PEOPLE VOTED FOR MORE DEMOCRACY, NOT FOR GOS POLICIES. SAME PAPER DEC 18 RUNS TASS STORY QUOTING MONTERO AS SAYING, WHETHER LEGALIZED OR NOT, PCE WILL PARTICIPATE IN LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS AND WILL RUN CANDIDATES.

--ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS OPENING RATES LARGE HEADLINE BUT ONLY SHORT PRO-FORMA TASS ITEM WITHOUT COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA DEC 19.

--IN CONTRAST VIETNAM CONGRESS CONTINUES TO GET EXTENSIVE COVERAGE PARTICULARLY IN PRAVDA. SUSLOV'S RETURN TO MOSCOW FROM HANOI THROUGH TASHKENT NOTED.

--KZ DEC 19 REPORTS FROM MANILA ON MARCOS'CALL FOR "COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY" OVER U.S. BASES.

--PRAVDA I. LATYSHEV ON DEC 18 DOES INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF JAPANESE PM MIKI AND HIS GOVERNMENT AFTER ITS FALL. HE SEES MIKI AS REPRESENTING RESURGENCE OF CONSERVATIVE FORCES AND DEPLORES MIKI'S UNFRINDLY POSITION TOWARDS USSR AS EXEMPLIFIED IN MIG-25 INCIDENT.

--DEC 19 PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA NOTE MEETING BETWEEN LEBANESE PM MOSS AND SYRIAN PRESIDENT SADAT IN DAMASCUS.

--DEC 18 PRAVDA AND KZ HAVE FACTUAL COVERAGE OF RESULTS OF OPEC MEETING. DEC 18 IZVESTIYA CARRIES ARTICLE BY TEHRAN SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AKHMEDZYANOV ACCUSING U.S. OF LEADING PROPAGANDA ATTACK AGAINST OIL-

PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

--DEC 20 IZVESTIYA AND KZ HAVE TASS LUSAKA ARTICLE
ON POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT
HAS PLACED ON JOSHUA NKOMO DURING HIS STAY IN RHODESIA.
--DEC 20 PRAVDA CONTAINS RAMBLING ARTICLE BY
L. KUZNETSOV ON INEVITABLE VICTORY OF SWAPO FORCES IN
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NAMIBIA. ARTICLE ACCUSES SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES OF USING
CHEMICAL WEAPONS, OF REQUESTING PENTAGON ASSISTANCE IN
SETTING UP TRAINING BASE FOR NAMIBIAN PUPPER ARMY. IT
REPEATS SWAPO CHARGE THAT TWO "IMPORTANT LEADERS" WHO
RECENTLY ARRIVED IN NAMIBIA ARE AGENTS OF CIA AND SOUTH
AFRICAN SECRET SERVICES.

--DEC 18 KZ HAS ARTICLE BY V. CHURSANOV ON U.S.
MILITARY SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUAN DICTATOR SOMOZA.
CHURSANOV EMPHASIZES U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN RECENTLY
CONCLUDED "AGILA-6" MANEUVERS DESPITE LACK OF U.S.
MEMBERSHIP IN SPONSORING ORGANIZATION, CENTRAL AMERICAN
DEFENSE COUNCIL.

--PRAVDA'S YURI ZHUKOV HAS SHORT COMMENTATOR'S
COLUMN DEC 20 TOOTING WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE'S HORN IN
PREPARATION FOR JANUARY MEETING IN MOSCOW.

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